

**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb structural body comprising:

a ceramic block made by arranging a plurality of through-holes side by side in a longitudinal direction through partition walls and sealing either one end portions of the through-holes,

wherein the ceramic block ~~is formed with~~ comprises a composite material comprising ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the ceramic block is made by bonding a plurality of prismatic ceramic members each having a plurality of through-holes arranged side by side in the longitudinal direction through partition walls with sealing material layers.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at one end portion of the ceramic block and through-holes not plugged with the plugging material are plugged with a plugging material at the other end portion thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the composite material is a porous ceramics formed by bonding ceramic particles through amorphous silicon.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak ( $2\theta$  = about  $28^\circ$ ) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than  $1.0^\circ$ .

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body comprising:  
a ceramic member having a plurality of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in a length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween and are sealed at either one end portions of the through holes,  
wherein the ceramic member comprises a composite material including ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at either one end portions of the through holes.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the composite material is a porous ceramics comprising the ceramic particles bonded one another through the amorphous silicon.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak ( $2\theta$  = about  $28^\circ$ ) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than  $1.0^\circ$ .

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural boy according to claim 13, wherein through-holes plugged at one end portion of the through holes are located adjacent to through-holes plugged at the other end portion of the through holes.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body comprising:  
a plurality of ceramic members combined with one another, the ceramic members each having a plurality of through holes extending in parallel with one another in a length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween and are sealed at either one end portions of the through holes,  
wherein the plurality of ceramic members each comprise a composite material including ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of ceramic members are arranged side by side in the length direction with sealing material layers therebetween.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at either one end portions of the through holes.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the composite material is a porous ceramics comprising the ceramic particles bonded one another through the amorphous silicon.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak ( $2\theta$  = about  $28^\circ$ ) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than  $1.0^\circ$ .

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural boy according to claim 19, wherein through-holes plugged at one end portion of the through holes are located adjacent to through-holes plugged at the other end portion of the through holes.